November 16, 2018

The Honorable Paul Ryan
Speaker
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Minority Leader
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Minority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Speaker Ryan and Leaders Pelosi, McConnell, and Schumer:

As Congress seeks to finalize remaining FY19 appropriations decisions, I write on behalf of the Association of American Universities (AAU), an association of America's leading research universities, to urge final passage of unfinished FY19 appropriations bills or an omnibus appropriations measure before the current continuing resolution expires December 7.

We applaud Congress for the strong FY19 investments already enacted for the National Institutes of Health, the Department of Defense's 6.1 basic research program and DARPA, and the Department of Energy's Office of Science and ARPA-E. We also commend Congress for the $100 increase to the maximum Pell Grant award. These investments represent another important step in strengthening the federal government-university partnership that has helped secure our nation and made the U.S. the world's global innovation leader.

Completing the FY19 appropriations will allow enactment of key decisions already made by the appropriators to help ensure the U.S. remains the world's global innovation leader. For example, the remaining FY19 appropriations bills propose important funding increases for the National Science Foundation, NASA, the USDA's Agriculture and Food Research Initiative, and the National Endowment for the Humanities. At a time when our global economic competitors are rapidly gaining ground, strong and reliable federal research investments are more important than ever.

We urge Congress to quickly complete FY19 appropriations and avoid a partial government shutdown and the harmful disruption it would cause to research and other federal programs. Thank you for considering our views.

Sincerely,

Mary Sue Coleman, President

cc: Members of the House Appropriations Committee
        Members of the Senate Appropriations Committee